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GAME AND BIRD REFUGE NEED STRESSED BY REDINGTON IN REPORT TO SECRETARY JARDINE

In his report to Secretary of Agriculture Jardine on the work and accomplishments of the Bureau of Biological Survey for the year (made public to-day--December 4), Paul G. Redington, chief of the bureau, places emphasis on wild-life research. He considers this fundamental to all other functions of the bureau and basic to the chief service expected by the public and by the various States. He also stresses the importance of the establishment of game and bird refuges as being without doubt the greatest single factor in successful wild-life administration.

"The development of additional refuge areas for wild life," says Mr. Redington, "has been brought more intimately to public attention, and the sentiment throughout the country is more definitely crystallized in favor of a unified program, as it becomes generally understood that the onward march of civilization, with its farming and industrial operations, threatens, at least locally, the ultimate extinction of the various forms of wild life that were the delight of our forbears and that can not be perpetuated for future enjoyment unless provided with ample range, including feeding, breeding, and resting grounds. There is urgent need for funds to enable the Biological Survey to investigate and determine the suitability of areas that are being proposed for refuge purposes."

Mr. Redington mentions as outstanding among the accomplishments and new lines of work undertaken in research during the year, the following:

Inauguration of studies of the relative abundance of migratory wild fowl from year to year, through systematic and repeated censuses taken by cooperators on important waterfowl concentration areas.

Authorization by congressional act of more extended research having to do with the relations of wild life to forestry--the effects of birds, mammals, and other forms on forest production.

Successful crossbreeding of Alaskan reindeer with native caribou captured for the experiments, and the birth of fawns of materially increased weight.

Establishment of a Rabbit Experiment Station at Fontana, Calif., to supplement other investigations on the production of rabbits for fur and food, and progress in cooperative investigations of diseases of foxes and measures for their prevention and cure on fox farms.

Progress in research work on the food of the English sparrow, in studies of the requirements of the Wyoming elk, in the administration of other game animals and birds on reservations, and in coordination of State and Federal policies in wild-life administration generally.

Important measures mentioned for the welfare of wild life are the authorization by Congress of a refuge for migratory birds in the extensive Bear River Marshes, Utah, and first steps in its administration, as an aid to conserving the wild-fowl resources of the West; and greater expedition in the work of acquiring lands for the Upper Mississippi River Wild-Life Refuge through congressional aid and through private donation of areas important to the purposes of the refuge.

Of importance to cooperative work for the control of wild-animal pests of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, stock-raising, and wild game was the development, through a conference of field leaders in rodent and predatory-animal control at Ogden, Utah, of improved plans for research work and definite policies in local and general control operations. "Congress has requested," says Mr. Redington, "that there be submitted to it at the next session a plan that will operate to insure adequate control of the predatory animals throughout the country."

Seven Federal conservation laws are listed that are administered by the Biological Survey, including the migratory-bird treaty and Lacey Acts, and, by cooperation with the Alaska Game Commission, the Alaska game law. "Respect on the part of sportsmen and the public in general for Federal and State laws for the conservation of wild life," says Mr. Redington, "is increasing from year to year, and United States district courts and district attorneys have continued their interest in the enforcement of the regulations. There are still too many hunters who will violate the law whenever opportunity is afforded.

"Demands for better enforcement of the Federal migratory-bird regulations are insistent and general. Citizens everywhere express their approval of the law but assert that enforcement is notably inadequate. The reason for this criticism becomes evident when it is realized that the appropriation available for enforcing the migratory-bird treaty act regulations allows for the full-time employment of only 24 salaried game protectors throughout the entire country. Each game protector must on the average cover two States, and in his work can have little assistance from the United States deputy game wardens, since funds are not sufficient to permit many of these latter officials--generally voluntary cooperators--to be assigned to this duty. The establishment of an adequate force of game protectors would have immediate beneficial results in a quickening of public interest in wild-life protection and in strengthening the public support of the migratory-bird treaty act."

The regulations promulgated by Secretary Jardine for the protection of game and fur animals in Alaska, under the new law of 1925, are declared by Mr. Redington already to have shown their effectiveness in the conservation of the wild-life resources of the Territory.

"Alaska possesses many interesting and highly valuable forms of wild life," he continues, "that need more protection than is now afforded them through the limited resources available to the Alaska Game Commission. With fairly large numbers of such noted big-game animals as the mountain

sheep, the moose, the caribou, the mountain goat, the deer, and the grizzly and Alaska brown bears; and with foxes, beavers, minks, muskrats, and lynxes present in considerable numbers, there exists a real opportunity to put into effect a wild-life administration program that not only will insure a continuance of game and fur animals in present numbers, but should operate to increase the stocks of many of these and of other species, which, without better protection, must rapidly go down hill. Forward-looking Alaskans are behind the work of the Alaska Game Commission. Demands are being made for more strict law enforcement than can be given by the commission through its force of seven full-time wardens. Each of these wardens is expected to handle an area of more than 70,000 square miles, as compared with only 100 square miles covered by wardens in the better organized States."

Prominent mention is made in the report of the "continued cordial relations with scientific institutions and individual research workers; with officers of State departments of agriculture, extension services, livestock and other associations, cooperating stockmen, and farmers; and with State conservation departments, the Alaska Game Commission, sportsmen's associations, hunting clubs, and individual sportsmen and other conservationists. Through the interest of cooperators in the varied duties assigned to the Biological Survey, the influence and helpfulness of the bureau is greatly extended, far beyond the sphere of activity of the limited force of workers that can be carried on its rolls."

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